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LETTER DATED 20 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement dated 30 September 1993 addressed to you by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex and appendices circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

Statement dated 30 September 1993 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to our letter of 24 August 1993 (A/48/347-S/26357), we have the honour to inform you that, at a meeting held in Moscow on 24 September 1993, the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States signed an agreement on the establishment of coalition defence forces in the Republic of Tajikistan and on joint measures for their logistical support, as well as a statute of the joint command of the coalition defence forces. The Agreement and other documents relating to the aforementioned peace-keeping forces are appended hereto.

We hope that the measures being taken by our States will help to further the process of stabilizing the situation in Tajikistan.

We reiterate that we view the establishment of the coalition defence forces as a regional arrangement concluded in accordance with the purposes and principles of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

We request you to bring the above information to the attention of the Security Council. It is our hope that the establishment of the coalition defence forces will receive the political and other support of the Security Council as a contribution to peace and stability in the Central Asian region.

(Signed) T. SULEIMENOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Kazakhstan

(Signed) E. KARABAEV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Kyrgyz Republic

(Signed) A. KOZYREV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Russian Federation

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Tajikistan

(Signed) I. MUKHAMEDOV
For the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Appendix I

Decision on the establishment of collective peace-keeping forces and the commencement of their operations

The States Parties to this decision (hereinafter referred to as the States Parties), guided by the Agreement on Collective Peace-keeping Forces and Joint Measures for Their Logistical Support,

Have decided:

1. To establish, by 1 October 1993, the Collective Peace-keeping Forces (within the agreed structure and strength) and to ensure that they arrive at their deployment points at the agreed times.

2. The Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall be established for a period of up to six months and thereafter as necessary and at the request of the Government of the receiving State; the length of their presence in the territory of the receiving State may be changed by a decision of the Heads of the States Parties.

3. To appoint as commander of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces Colonel-General Boris Evgenevich Pyankov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Unified Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original copy in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this decision.

For the Republic of Armenia:

[No signature]

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

[No signature]

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. AKAEV

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

[No signature]

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

(Signed) I. KARIMOV

Appendix II

Agreement on Collective Peace-keeping Forces and Joint Measures for Their Logistical Support

The States Parties to this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the States Parties),

Taking into account the agreements and treaties concluded between the States Parties on questions of defence, security and peace-keeping in the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Desiring to create conditions conducive to the timely and uninterrupted provision of military formations of the States Parties for carrying out tasks in accordance with this Agreement,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "Collective Peace-keeping Forces" means:

Military formations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and other States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, together with their arms, ammunition, military equipment and property, which are provided by the States Parties for the purpose of carrying out the tasks of restoring order and peace-keeping and which are under their Joint Command.

The composition, tasks and operating procedure of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces are defined in the Statute of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces (annex 1) [see appendix III].

Article 2

The States Parties shall provide the agreed number of personnel and quantity of equipment.

Article 3

The States Parties shall be responsible for recruiting, teaching, training, financing and providing logistical support and equipment to the personnel detached to the Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

The States Parties shall acquire any materials which they lack from each other on the basis of agreements and mutual settlements on unified pricing principles.

Article 4

The costs involved in the activities and maintenance of the personnel of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall be covered by contributions from the States Parties, which shall be made in accordance with annex 2 [see appendix IV].

Article 5

A State Party which is the receiving Party shall be responsible for receiving and deploying the troops (forces) of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and shall make available the necessary infrastructure to enable the Collective Peace-keeping Forces to carry out their tasks.

Article 6

Each State Party shall ensure the unhindered and uninterrupted movement of military cargoes, delivered by air and land for the provision of logistical support to the Collective Peace-keeping Forces, through its territory without requiring import (export) licences or collecting customs duties, taxes or other charges, on the basis of military passes issued by the ministries of defence of the States Parties.

Article 7

The States Parties shall take measures to ensure the safe transit of military cargoes of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces through their territories.

Each State Party undertakes to guarantee transit through (overflight over) its territory by military and civilian personnel of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and members of their families.

Article 8

In order to facilitate the activities of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces, the States Parties shall make available their airspace and airfields, provide for the parking and maintenance of airplanes (helicopters) and for personnel without compensation and carry out refuelling services for payment, and shall not undertake any actions that might disturb or hamper their normal operation.

Article 9

Questions relating to the organization and conduct of military reconnaissance in the interests of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall be defined in separate agreements between the Russian Federation and the other States Parties.

Article 10

The States Parties shall take the necessary measures to provide logistical support to their troops in the Collective Peace-keeping Forces by making available their arsenals, military equipment, ammunition and other materials deposited and stored at military bases situated in the territories of the States Parties.

Article 11

The States Parties shall carry out repairs of military equipment and arms and replenish losses in their military formations by their own means in the territory of the State Party which is the receiving Party and, when necessary, in their own territories.

The receiving Party shall not impede the withdrawal of such military equipment and arms for the purpose of repair.

Article 12

The States Parties shall settle all disputes which may arise in the course of the implementation of this Agreement through mutual consultations and the conclusion of additional agreements.

Article 13

This Agreement shall be open for accession by any State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States and also by other States which share the aims of this Agreement.

Article 14

This Agreement shall enter into force for each of the States Parties in accordance with its legislative procedures.

Article 15

This Agreement shall remain in force pending the adoption of another decision on this matter.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of Kazakhstan, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this Agreement.

For the Republic of Armenia:

[No signature]

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

[No signature]

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. AKAEV

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

[No signature]

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

(Signed) I. KARIMOV

Appendix III

Annex 1 to the Agreement of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Collective Peace-keeping Forces and Joint Measures for Their Logistical Support, of 24 September 1993

Statute of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces

I. General provisions

1. The Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Command) shall be an interim body of the military administration and shall be set up for the period required for carrying out the relevant tasks.

2. In its work, the Joint Command shall cooperate with the Ministries of Defence (Committee for Defence) and other authorities of the States Parties in the tasks with which it is entrusted.

3. The powers of the Joint Command shall, within the limits established by this Statute, extend to all the military formations placed under its tactical command.

4. The organization and establishment of the Joint Command shall be approved by the Ministers of Defence of the States Parties.

II. Purpose, composition and functions of the Joint Command

1. The Joint Command shall be the organ of military administration and is intended for the direction of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

The Joint Command shall comprise:

- A command group consisting of the Commander, the Chief of Staff - the First Deputy Commander, his deputies and other officers in accordance with the organization and establishment of the Joint Command;

- A Staff consisting of the Chief of Staff, his deputies, representatives of the armed forces of the States Parties and of corresponding units, as agreed by the Ministries of Defence (Committee for Defence) of the States Parties;

- Departments responsible for personnel, armaments and logistical support and other bodies in accordance with the organization and establishment of the Joint Command.

2. The functions of the Joint Command shall include:

- Analysing the military and political situation on the southern frontiers of the Central Asian region and the submission of reports containing conclusions on that situation to the supreme organs of the States Parties;

- Putting into effect decisions by the heads of the States Parties on the operational deployment of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces;

- Directing the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in the preparation and conduct of operations (combat) on the Tajik-Afghan frontier;

- Maintaining the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in a state of constant combat readiness;

- Elaborating and implementing measures to raise the level of training of the staff officers and troops of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and to improve the arrangements for their logistical support and administration;

- Participating in the negotiating process aimed at stabilizing the situation in the receiving State;

- Organizing and implementing mutual support with the command echelons of the States Parties in the formation of the units and subunits of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and the provision to them of weapons, military equipment and logistical support.

3. The Commander of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall be appointed by the heads of the States Parties on the recommendation of the Ministers of Defence of the States Parties. He shall be accountable to the heads of State and the Ministers of Defence of the States Parties and shall be directly in charge of the entire personnel of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

The functions of the Commander of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall include:

- Putting into effect decisions of the heads of the States Parties on the operational deployment of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces;

- Submitting reports to the Ministers of Defence of the States Parties, drawing conclusions on the military, political and tactical situation in the region and preparing proposals for the conduct of operations to halt acts of aggression;

- Taking independent decisions, in emergencies, to conduct operations (combat), subsequently reporting thereon to the heads of State and Ministers of Defence of the States Parties;

- Directing the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in the preparation of operations (combat) and taking command of those operations;

- Organizing and maintaining working contacts with the Ministries of Defence of the States Parties and with local authorities;

- Conducting negotiations, within the limits of his powers, with representatives of the conflicting sides;

- Organizing and directing the operational and combat training of the staff officers and troops under his command;

- Arranging the activities of the military representatives of the States Parties who constitute the Joint Command;

- Administering the finances and logistical-support materials allocated to the Collective Peace-keeping Forces for their work.

The Commander of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall have the right, where necessary, to make changes to the organization and establishment of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces by increasing the prescribed establishment strength by up to 10 per cent by agreement with the Ministers of Defence (Chairman of the Committee for Defence) of the States Parties.

4. The Staff shall be the main command echelon of the Joint Command. It shall be formed through a process of coalition involving representatives of all the States Parties.

The functions of the Staff shall include:

- Analysing the military, political and tactical situation in the region and preparing conclusions and proposals for a report to the Commander;

- Preparing proposals for the preparation and conduct of operations (combat);

- Planning the deployment of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and ensuring that the troops are promptly informed of their tasks;

- Organizing mutual support and all-round maintenance and control;

- Organizing the combat training of troops;

- Monitoring implementation of the tasks which have been allotted;

- Maintaining mutual support with the general staffs (military headquarters) of the States Parties;

- Planning and organizing the recruitment of troops, their provision with weapons, military equipment, ammunition and other logistical-support materials;

- Conducting negotiations, official meetings and other measures designed to help stabilize the situation.

5. The Staff shall be headed by a Chief of Staff, who shall be the First Deputy Commander and shall be directly in charge of the entire personnel of the Joint Command and the Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

The functions of the Chief of Staff shall include:

- Directing the work of the Staff and coordinating the work carried out by elements of the Joint Command to monitor implementation of the decisions of the Commander;

- Preparing conclusions based on an assessment of the military, political and tactical situation and proposals for the deployment of the Peace-keeping Forces, and submitting these to the Commander;

- Coordinating the work carried out by elements of the Joint Command in planning the deployment of the Peace-keeping Forces and in organizing mutual support and all-round maintenance and control;

- Directing the planning and implementation of measures to raise the level of combat readiness of staff officers and troops and to improve their operational and combat training;

- Making arrangements to monitor the implementation of decisions by the Commander and the performance of allotted tasks;

- Directing the preparation of proposals and documents for the provision to the Collective Peace-keeping Forces of arms, military equipment, ammunition and other materials;

- Ensuring the maintenance of mutual support with the Ministers of Defence and organs of military administration and security of the States Parties;

- Exercising the functions of the Commander in his absence.

6. The representatives of the armed forces of the States Parties shall be Deputy Chiefs of Staff and shall exercise duties in accordance with all the functions of the Staff of the Joint Command.

7. The receiving State shall ensure that the Joint Command is given every opportunity to perform its functions, inter alia through the provision of logistical support and services.

8. The buildings and installations allocated to the Joint Command shall be inviolable and shall enjoy immunity from search, confiscation, arrest and other administrative or legal actions. Any of the aforementioned actions shall only be possible with the consent of the Commander of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces or upon a decision of the heads of the States Parties. The authorities of the receiving State shall be obliged to take all appropriate measures to protect the buildings and installations allocated for the needs of the Joint Command from illegal acts.

9. The documents of the Joint Command shall be inviolable. They may be examined, inspected or confiscated only with the consent of the Joint Command or the heads of the States Parties.

10. The official correspondence and the mail of the Joint Command shall be inviolable and may not be opened or withheld.

11. Couriers and official messengers of the Joint Command shall enjoy immunity of person and the protection of the receiving State in the performance of their functions.

12. The freedom of movement of military and civilian personnel of the Joint Command, as well as of the members of their families, shall be guaranteed by the receiving State throughout its territory, due account being taken of the laws in force.

13. The military and civilian personnel of the Joint Command shall respect the sovereignty and the laws of the receiving State, shall not interfere in its internal affairs and shall not participate in internal conflicts.

14. Criminal, administrative and civil jurisdiction in connection with actions committed by a person belonging to the Joint Command in the performance of his official duties shall be exercised by the State Party whose citizenship he holds.

15. Taxes, charges and duties payable in the territory of the receiving State shall not apply to military and civilian personnel of the Joint Command.

16. Military and civilian personnel of the Joint Command shall not be subject to customs duties and charges for the import and export of items intended for official use.

17. Military and civilian personnel shall be assigned to the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in the territory of the receiving State on a temporary basis, for periods of up to six months, and their names shall not be removed from the personnel register of their military unit.

The selection and assignment of military and civilian personnel shall be carried out by the appropriate Ministries of Defence (Committee for Defence) and the High Command of the Unified Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the basis of established representation.

18. Military personnel of the Joint Command shall wear military uniform and insignia in accordance with the procedure and rules established in the sending State.

19. The military and civilian personnel of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces shall be provided with pay, clothing, food and other allowances on scales established by the legislation of the sending State. They shall be provided with additional guarantees and allowances as established by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

In addition, the military and civilian personnel of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and of the military support units (coalition personnel) shall receive monetary allowances commensurate with the appointments they held at the time of their assignment to the Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

20. The provision of medical services to the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in the territory of the receiving State shall be carried out through the use of the manpower and equipment of the States Parties to this Agreement.

21. The activities of the Joint Command shall be financed with assessed contributions from the participating States.

22. Control over the financial and other business transacted by the Joint Command shall be exercised in accordance with a procedure established by the Ministers of Defence.

23. For the purposes of directing the troops (forces) constituting the Collective Peace-keeping Forces and ensuring liaison communications with the Joint Command, the participating States shall allocate communications equipment and signals personnel in accordance with agreed quotas.

Appendix IV

Annex 2 to the Agreement of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Collective Peace-keeping Forces and Joint Measures for Their Logistical Support, of 24 September 1993

Amounts of contributions of member States for financing the work of the Joint Command of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces

Republic of Kazakhstan	15 per cent
The Kyrgyz Republic	10 per cent
Russian Federation	50 per cent
Republic of Tajikistan	10 per cent
Republic of Uzbekistan	15 per cent

Appendix V

Decision on the establishment of a Fund for Assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan

The States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Bearing in mind their firm historical ties and their traditions of close cooperation and mutual assistance,

Supporting the efforts of the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan to normalize the political and socio-economic situation in the Republic, and

Considering the need to provide assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan for these purposes,

Have decided:

1. To establish a Fund for Assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan;

2. To instruct the heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to establish a working group to draft constituent documents for the Fund for Assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan and to submit them to the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth at its regular session.

This decision shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this decision.

For the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) G. ALIEV

For the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. AKAEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

(Signed) M. SNEGUR

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

(Signed) S. NIYAZOV

For Ukraine:

(Signed) L. KRAVCHUK

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

(Signed) I. KARIMOV

Appendix VI

Decision on support for the Declaration on Measures for the Normalization of the Situation on the Tajik-Afghan Frontier

The heads of State of the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, Turkmenistan and Ukraine,

Expressing deep concern about the deteriorating situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier,

Have decided:

To support the Declaration on Measures for the Normalization of the Situation on the Tajik-Afghan Frontier adopted by the heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at Moscow on 7 August 1993.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this decision.

For the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) G. ALIEV

For the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Moldova:

(Signed) M. SNEGUR

For Turkmenistan:

[No signature]

For Ukraine:

(Signed) L. KRAVCHUK

Appendix VII

Declaration of the Heads of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on International Obligations in the Sphere of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Taking into account the urgency of the problems relating to the observance of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in the territories of all the States members of the Commonwealth,

Confirming that, in the Alma Ata Declaration of 21 December 1991, the States members of the Commonwealth announced their intention to guarantee in accordance with their constitutional procedures the discharge of the international obligations deriving from treaties and agreements concluded by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Noting the responsibility of the States members of the Commonwealth for the protection of human rights and freedoms,

Considering that the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe have undertaken to consider the question of becoming parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and also other international human rights agreements,

Reaffirming their adherence to the purposes and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Declare that the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

1. Shall consider and adopt decisions regarding succession to the human rights treaties and agreements referred to in the annex to this Declaration, and also in respect of the fulfilment of obligations in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms arising from the international treaties and agreements to which the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was party;

2. Shall regularly, at meetings of the heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, discuss problems relating to the implementation of international human rights treaties and agreements in order to identify and eliminate obstacles to the effective observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Shall make the necessary efforts to regulate, in their relations with other States members of the Commonwealth, matters relating to the observance of human rights, through, inter alia, the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements;

4. Express the firm intention to formulate and conclude as soon as possible a human rights convention of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

5. Shall take the necessary steps to bring their national legislation into line with obligations under existing international human rights agreements and, in particular, the documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this Declaration.

For the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) G. ALIEV

For the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. AKAEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

(Signed) M. SNEGUR

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

(Signed) S. NIYAZOV

For Ukraine:

(Signed) L. KRAVCHUK

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

(Signed) I. KARIMOV

Appendix VIII

Agreement on Assistance to Refugees and Persons Subjected to Forced Resettlement

The States Parties to this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Basing themselves on the universally acknowledged principles of international law and humanism,

Reaffirming their commitments under international agreements for the protection of human rights,

Considering the critical situation resulting from the increase in migrants and refugees in the territory of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Recognizing their responsibility for persons experiencing hardship and deprivation,

Acknowledging the need to provide assistance to refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement, refugees shall be defined as any persons who are not citizens of the Party granting refuge and who were compelled to leave the place of their permanent residence in the territory of another Party as a result of violence directed against them, or members of their family or persecution in any form, or the genuine danger of being persecuted for reasons of race or nationality, religion, language, political beliefs or membership of a particular social group in connection with armed, interethnic conflicts.

Any persons who have committed a crime against peace, a crime against humanity or any other premeditated criminal offence shall not be recognized as refugees.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Agreement, persons subjected to forced resettlement shall be defined as any persons who are citizens of the Party granting refuge and who were compelled to leave the place of their permanent residence in the territory of another Party as a result of violence directed against them, or members of their family or persecution in any form, or the genuine danger of being persecuted for reasons of race or nationality, religion, language, political beliefs or membership of a particular social group in connection with armed, interethnic conflicts.

Article 3

The status of refugee and person subjected to forcible resettlement shall be determined in accordance with this Agreement, the universally acknowledged norms of international law and the legislation of the Party granting refuge, and shall be confirmed by the issuance of the relevant document.

Article 4

The State of departure shall, with the assistance of the Parties concerned:

Evacuate the population from areas of armed, interethnic conflict, providing them with the opportunity to depart voluntarily and without hindrance for the territory of another of the Parties on the basis of the provisions of articles 1 and 2 of this Agreement;

Ensure the safety of evacuated persons and their property by means of a cease-fire and the preservation of public order during the evacuation.

Issues relating to the financial, logistical, food, medical and transport requirements of the evacuees shall be resolved by the Parties concerned.

Article 5

The Party granting refuge shall assume responsibility for:

Providing refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement with the necessary social and living conditions in places of transit;

Providing refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement with assistance in finding work in accordance with the employment legislation adopted by each of the Parties.

Article 6

The Parties shall assume responsibility for:

Assisting refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement in applications for and the issuance of documents needed to resolve questions relating to citizenship;

Assisting refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement to obtain, from the place of their previous residence, marriage and birth certificates, employment records and other documents needed to resolve questions relating to pensions, confirmation of length of employment, travel abroad and so on;

Providing assistance in obtaining information about relatives living in the territory of the State left by refugees or persons subject to forced resettlement, and also of property which they have left there.

Article 7

The State of departure shall compensate refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement for the value of housing and other property left behind or lost in their territory and shall indemnify them for damage to their health and loss of earnings. The amount of material compensation shall be determined on the basis of the valuation carried out by the State of departure.

The procedure for valuing the movable and immovable property lost by refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement, assessing material losses and paying compensation shall be determined jointly by the Parties concerned.

Article 8

The Parties shall establish an inter-State fund for assistance to refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement.

The conditions and procedure for constituting and using the resources of the fund shall be determined by its statute, which shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 9

The Consultative Council on Labour, Migration and Social Protection of the Population of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States shall provide practical assistance in the implementation of the commitments set forth in this Agreement.

Article 10

Every refugee and person subjected to forced resettlement shall have the right of free access to courts in the territories of the Parties.

Article 11

The Parties shall take steps to become parties to international treaties on problems concerning refugees and persons subjected to forced resettlement.

The Parties shall introduce national legislation in accordance with international legal norms in this field.

Article 12

This Agreement shall be subject to ratification.

The Agreement shall enter into force as soon as a third instrument of ratification has been deposited. For any Party which ratifies it at a later

date, the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of deposit of the relevant instrument of ratification.

Article 13

Any of the Parties may denounce this Agreement by notifying the depositary in writing. The Agreement shall cease to be valid for that Party six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the depositary.

Article 14

Subject to the consent of all the Parties, this Agreement shall be open for accession by other States which share its aims and principles, by the transmission to the depositary of the instruments of accession. Such accession shall take effect on the date on which the depositary receives the last communication confirming consent to the accession.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this Agreement.

For the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) G. ALIEV

For the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. AKAEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

[No signature]

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

(Signed) S. NIYAZOV

For Ukraine:

[No signature]

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

(Signed) I. KARIMOV

Appendix IX

Agreement on Urgent Measures for the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts

The States Parties to this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Deeply concerned about the disturbing situation that has developed over a substantial part of the territory of the former USSR as a result of armed conflicts with national, religious and political causes,

Stressing the necessity to protect the victims of armed conflicts and persons not participating in armed conflicts, especially peaceful inhabitants and members of armed forces not belonging to the military forces of the parties to the conflict,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Parties have affirmed their obligations under international human rights instruments,

Basing themselves on the humane principles and norms of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims and the additional Protocols of 8 June 1977, as well as on the other obligations arising out of the provisions and principles of international humanitarian law,

Resolutely condemning gross violations of international humanitarian law, such as the use of prohibited ways and means of conducting military operations, aggression against the civilian population and civilian targets, hostage-taking, torture and other infringements of human dignity and the like,

Affirming their determination to put an end to armed conflicts,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall cooperate on a bilateral and multilateral basis in taking the necessary measures to avert violations of human rights and the norms of humanitarian law in areas of armed conflict.

Article 2

The Parties shall, if not already parties to the relevant international treaties, use their best endeavours to ensure the prompt succession of rights in relation to the international treaties of the former USSR in the field of international humanitarian law, which imposes obligations on States and on all parties to armed conflicts, and shall bring their national legislation into line with the norms and principles of international humanitarian law.

Article 3

The Parties shall, if they have not already done so, adopt as soon as possible national legislative acts guaranteeing social protection and compensation for material loss to persons that have suffered as a result of armed conflicts.

Article 4

The Parties shall undertake immediate coordinated measures for the protection of persons unlawfully deprived of their freedom for reasons connected with armed conflict, whether interned or in detention, and for the return of prisoners of war and the unconditional release of hostages.

Article 5

The Parties shall coordinate reciprocal actions for the protection of the victims of armed conflicts as provided for under this Agreement, with the assistance of national organizations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Council of Defence Ministers and other bodies of the Commonwealth and the Committee on Internationalist Combatants of the Council of Heads of Government, and shall supply the Parties concerned with information regarding victims of armed conflicts needing protection and assistance.

Article 6

Each Party shall take all necessary steps to put a stop to any action that violates international humanitarian law, through such means as effective measures to prosecute and punish persons who have organized, committed or ordered to be committed an act defined as a war crime or a crime against humanity under international law and/or national legislation.

Article 7

The Parties shall render each other necessary assistance in connection with the protection of the individual and property rights of the victims of armed conflicts.

Article 8

Disputes regarding the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved through discussions between the Parties concerned and through other generally accepted methods of the peaceful settlement of disputes, including conciliation commissions established at the request of one of the Parties.

Article 9

This Agreement shall be open for accession by other States sharing its aims and principles.

Article 10

This Agreement shall be subject to ratification or approval in accordance with the internal procedures of the Parties.

Article 11

This Agreement shall enter into force 10 days after three instruments of ratification or notification of its approval have been lodged with the depositary.

DONE at Moscow on 24 September 1993 in one original in the Russian language. The original shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall send certified copies thereof to the States signatories to this Agreement.

For the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) L. TER-PETROSSIAN

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) G. ALIEV

For the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) S. SHUSHKEVICH

For the Republic of Georgia:

[No signature]

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. AKAEV

For the Republic of Moldova:

(Signed) M. SNEGUR

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For Turkmenistan:

(Signed) S. NIYAZOV

For Ukraine:

(Signed) L. KRAVCHUK

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:

(Signed) I. KARIMOV